

Fists Fly After Conviction for \$250,000 Fraud

Witness Against Shippers Who Raised Bills of Lading on Goods Consigned to Greece Is Assaulted

Two Are Found Guilty

Court Clerk and Deputy Marshals Rush to Aid of Ex-Secret Service Agent

George D. Pteriotis, president of the American Company of Commerce, who got approximately \$250,000 through a fraudulent bill of lading scheme, and his partner, George Brouzos, were found guilty yesterday by a jury in the United States District Court.

Pteriotis, Brouzos, John V. Sakelopoulos, Anthony Dritsas and Ernest Theodosios were charged with fraudulently altering and forging bills of lading.

The first two were found guilty on all of the fourteen counts in the indictment. The maximum penalty is five years' imprisonment on each count. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty in the case of Dritsas. Judge Dietrich dismissed the case against Theodosios after Benjamin A. Matthews, Assistant United States Attorney, had completed the presentation of his case against him. Judge Dietrich also ordered the case against Sakelopoulos dismissed before charging the jury. In both the cases he based his action on lack of evidence.

Fists Fly in Courtroom

After the jury had returned its verdict against Pteriotis and Brouzos and Judge Dietrich had set next Tuesday as the date on which he would sentence the two men, the courtroom was thrown into confusion by the action of the two men.

James Weitsman, formerly of the Secret Service, who was one of the witnesses, and punched him two or three times before the man attacked could put up his hands to defend himself.

Then Deputy Marshals Dempsey and Whalen got into action and Clerk Leary joined them. Presently Pteriotis found himself on the floor. Handcuffs were slipped on his wrists and he and Brouzos were led to the Tombs.

The scheme by which Pteriotis and his companion obtained large sums involved alterations of bills of lading for the shipment of merchandise to Greece. By representing to concerns in Piræus that he could supply them with sugar at a price below the market price at that time, which was last May—Pteriotis obtained orders for the goods.

"Raised" Bills of Lading

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Risks Life Snatching Man From Death in Subway; Refuses Name

A rather short, rather stout man in his thirties, who looked like anything other than the heroic types which fiction might have his picture in all the newspapers to-day and his name before the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission to-morrow, if he had loved the spotlight enough to answer one question in the subway at the Pennsylvania Station at about 5:30 o'clock last night.

He snatched an old man from in front of an express train and escaped death himself by a hair without losing the smile on his lips, but when somebody asked him for his name he walked aboard a train and went home to supper.

The subway platform at the Pennsylvania Station was thronged by a rush-hour crowd, when John C. Fish, twenty-four, of 45 Gunther Street, Coney Island, walked in through the gate to wait for his train. He looked down through the jam of humanity until he reached a point near the edge of the platform. Eagerly he bent forward and peered into the darkness, as nearly everybody in the subway was doing, if his train were coming. People nearer the edge of the platform block in his view. He moved closer.

The sound of the oncoming train was barely audible. He looked further forward—then he stumbled over a traveling bag. A shout of horror went up as the crowd saw the old man fall from the platform into the path of the approaching train.

The old man, who had been leaning over the edge of the platform, was seen to be struggling. He was being pulled back by a man who was running toward him. The man who was running toward him was seen to be struggling. He was being pulled back by a man who was running toward him.

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proaching express. He fell head first against one of the rails. Women closed their eyes to shut out the sight of the tragedy they felt was about to be enacted. Suddenly they were flung aside by a man who neither was horrified nor excited.

What happened next was too quick for fingers and typewriter to detail. A short, rather rotund body leaped down to the tracks, two short arms snatched the next body of the old man from the roadbed and fairly hurled it back to the platform. In another instant the rescuer was up among the crowd again, still smiling. The front car brushed his coat as his feet touched the smooth concrete again, but he didn't seem to be even breathing hard.

The women were shrieking as the crowd rushed to the rescuer as crowds always do.

"Don't mind me," he said, laughing softly, "look after those crazy women about that poor old man."

"What's your name?" said a man next to him.

"Never mind," he said. "Don't bother me; let me pass; that guard is closing the door and I'll be late for supper if I don't get in."

Patrolman Russell, of the West Thirtieth Street station, took the injured man, Fish, to New York Hospital, where it was said last night, he believed to be seriously hurt and may not live. His scalp was cut and bruised and he was injured internally.

Protesting his innocence, Hatfield intimated that the charge would form the basis of the prosecution's case.

"Yes, I suppose they will attempt to show that I killed Calvin Testerman so that I could marry his wife," said Hatfield, "but it's a lie and they know it. I don't kill Testerman. Why he was like a father to me. He was trying to protect me when he was killed. I wanted to arrest him and he stopped them. That is when the shooting commenced."

Jury Panel Still Uncompleted

While Hatfield was thus protesting his innocence, the Sheriff and his deputies were striving to complete the additional veniremen, the two special panels, one of 200 and the other of 50 men, having been exhausted early in the morning. Still two men to be selected. And while this was going on in the courtroom officials of the United Mine Workers of America were hurrying to Washington to urge a special investigation of the Mingo County coal strike while the trial is in progress.

Developments of the day were to one point—that the men summoned for jury service fear to serve and are adopting every device to escape, fearing reprisals should they be forced to serve and then be parties to an adverse verdict.

Out of 250 examined to date only eighteen have been selected, and these only tentatively. Two more must be selected, then eight must be dropped, so that it is doubtful if the first witness will be called before Tuesday. Tomorrow the Sheriff and his deputies will take to the hills a party of 100 men to appear in court Monday for examination.

Prosecutor Asks for Revolver

One of the incidents of the day was the request of former Judge Damron, leading attorney for the prosecution, that he be permitted by the court to carry a revolver. Some time ago Judge Damron was shot from ambush, but only slightly hurt. He desires to be armed to protect himself.

Prosecuting attorneys were silent as to Hatfield's charges that they would base their case on his alleged killing of Mayor Testerman.

"I know Judge Testerman before he married Calvin Testerman," Hatfield said. "I knew her for fifteen years. I was like a son to Testerman, and had access to his home at all times. They say there was some difference between Cal and me because I was friendly with his wife. That is a lie. But it will be just like these detectives to drag my wife into it. They want to throw the guilt of the murder upon some one else. I have been a thorn in their side since the strike started. I was an officer at Matewan and I did my duty. I took the bull by the horns and would not let them run me. I refused their dirty bribe money and refused to do their bidding. Let them try to prove that I killed Testerman."

Connecticut Women Call Governor's Stand Unfair

Members Say League of Voters Is Organization for Political Education, Not a Menace

HARTFORD, Conn., Jan. 29.—Governor Miller of New York was unfair in his criticism of the New York State League of Women Voters, it was charged today by the Connecticut women members of the Connecticut league, who deny it is a partisan political organization.

"The League of Women Voters is practically an organization for political education," said Mrs. Joseph W. Alsop, niece of Colonel Roosevelt and daughter of Francis Robinson of New York. "If it ever takes on a political aspect I shall be most decidedly opposed."

Miss Mary Bulkeley, of Hartford, an officer of the league and one of its leaders, said that Governor Miller's speech would make the good work of the league was trying to accomplish more difficult, for his criticisms were not fair. Referring to the Governor's expressed opposition to certain welfare measures which are before the New York Assembly, such as a measure to prohibit the employment of women at night in certain industries and proposals for health and old age insurance, Miss Bulkeley said:

"Of course, if Governor Miller is opposed to humanitarian legislation, as he says he is, it is natural he should be opposed to the League of Women Voters. The league is a meeting with opposition in several states where either the Democratic or Republican parties are dominant and grasping for more power. The league will continue in its chief purpose, which is to pick up the threads of legislation which are of special significance to women and attempt to have them woven into the legal and political fabric of the state or nation."

Then the Semackowitzes got busy—Abe and his father, and Mrs. Semackowitz, too. The detectives were backed against the wall, each with a broken knife and a thumb, when Lawrence managed to draw his revolver and fired two shots through the window, which brought Patrolman Hummel to the rescue.

Hummel climbed through the shattered window and surprised the Semackowitzes, who were just starting in on the detectives' right arms. His nightstick was too much for them, and he carried them off, protesting that he should be fighting on the other side. They explained that they took the detectives for friends of the low-life who had insulted Rosie, but Abe and his father were locked up, nevertheless.

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Hatfield Denies Killing Friend To Win Wife

One of 21 Defendants in Matewan Murder Trial Asserts Mayor Testerman Was Like Father to Him

Veniremen Fear Attack

Of 250 Examined Only 18 Have Been Chosen; Prosecutor Asks Gun Permit

Special Dispatch to The Tribune

WILLIAMSON, W. Va., Jan. 29.—Breaking the silence he has maintained since his arrest, Sid Hatfield, on trial here with twenty others for the slaying of seven Baldwin Feltz detectives at Matewan, to-day, in the Mingo County jail, denied the truth of the story sent broadcast that it was he who precipitated the gun battle in the little mining town in which Mayor C. C. Testerman might be killed and Hatfield win his beautiful wife.

The same time Hatfield denied another rumor to the effect that it was he who killed the Mayor and not the detectives slain. Hatfield and Mrs. Testerman were married two weeks after her husband was killed.

Protesting his innocence, Hatfield intimated that the charge would form the basis of the prosecution's case.

"Yes, I suppose they will attempt to show that I killed Calvin Testerman so that I could marry his wife," said Hatfield, "but it's a lie and they know it. I don't kill Testerman. Why he was like a father to me. He was trying to protect me when he was killed. I wanted to arrest him and he stopped them. That is when the shooting commenced."

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Cohen Asks for New Trial In Murder of Barnet Baff

Man Under Life Sentence Contends Evidence of Perjury Will Prove Innocence

Joseph Cohen, serving a life sentence in Sing Sing Prison for the murder of Barnet Baff, a West Washington Market poultry dealer, obtained from Justice Wasservogel an order to show cause why the convicted man should not have a new trial, which is asked on the ground that new evidence has been discovered which it is stated will prove Cohen innocent.

Cohen was convicted in 1917 of murder in the first degree. He was sentenced to be executed, but after several reprieves Governor Smith commuted his sentence to life imprisonment. Following the conviction of Cohen charges were made that several witnesses for the prosecution had committed perjury, and John Doe proceeded to be held before Judge McIntyre which resulted in charges of perjury being made against several persons.

Joseph Sorro recanted in a sworn statement testimony he gave against the convicted man and was indicted for perjury.

District Attorney Swann was served with the order to show cause issued yesterday. The order is returnable to-morrow in the Supreme Court. Among those whose presence is asked by Mr. Goetzstein is Justice James O'Malley of the Supreme Court, who as special Assistant Attorney General prosecuted Cohen. Judge McIntyre, Joseph Sorro and Ferdinand Pecora, Assistant District Attorney, who conducted the John Doe proceedings.

Whitman's Aids Believed to Have Linked Police Corruption With Persons Known in Night Life

Charles S. Whitman, former Governor, who, as Special Assistant District Attorney, is directing the grand jury investigation of the Hyman administration, took steps yesterday to plug up the leak which developed last week.

The prosecutor and his assistants spent the entire day examining witnesses in the stolen automobile scandal, far away from the Criminal Courts Building.

A leak had occurred, it was made plain Thursday, after the indictment of Detective Sergeants Martin S. Owens and Thomas J. Horan, when they appeared at the Criminal Courts Building to surrender before warrants for their arrest had been issued.

Governor Whitman and his assistants last night refused to discuss the developments of the day. It was learned unofficially, however, that a number of leads had been procured, as well as corroboration of testimony already given, which proved a surprise even to Mr. Whitman.

Mr. Whitman will go before the grand jury at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning according to present plans. It is said that he will produce evidence which he believes will warrant the indictment of at least three detective sergeants, all co-workers of Owens and Horan on the auto squad, charged with responsibility not only for recovering stolen automobiles, but for capturing the thieves.

One of the men under suspicion is said to be close to Police Commissioner Enright.